

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMISSION
JULY 20, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Beverly Calender-Anderson, David Hummons, Sheldon Gellar, William Vance, Jr.
Staff: Craig Brenner, Liaison, and Megan Hutchison, Intern, Community and Family Resources Department. **Guests:** Bev Smith, Chalmer Thompson, Debra Vance.

Introductions: Members and guests met and welcomed new commissioner Sheldon Gellar and guest Chalmer Thompson of the Heritage Project. Bev Smith announced that she will represent the Monroe County Community School Corporation. Beverly Calender-Anderson announced she will begin a new position – Director of the City of Bloomington Safe and Civil City Program.

Approval of Minutes: The June 5, 2005 minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Since the June 5, 2005 meeting, the commission received donations from United Commerce Bank (\$200), First United Methodist Church (\$200), Monroe Bank (\$200), Southern Indiana Pediatrics (\$100), and Robert and Alice McAuley (\$100). There was one expenditure: \$200 deposit for rental of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater for January, 2006. Total funds available = \$1,055.37.

Old Business:

2006 Celebration

The commission reiterated its decision to feature more music and a minimum of spoken words between music at the 2006 event. Craig contacted Sue Swaney, who had helped assemble the ensemble at our 2004 event which included original music by David Baker and Sarah Stevens, jointly performed by members of the Unitarian Universalist Church Choir, the IU African American Choral Ensemble, and children from University Elementary. Sue provided a list of possible resources for 2006. Craig will follow up with Sue and Melonee Burnim and try to coordinate multi-cultural performances that include children. Craig will invite Sue and Melonee to a commission meeting so we can provide guidance.

Bev Smith suggested sharing ideas with music department chairs at the schools, and she will serve as liaison in this and in other efforts by the commission to inform and involve students.

Year-round Commission Activities

The November event with the broad topic "Religion and Politics" will be a lead-in activity for the January, 2006 celebration. A planning committee consisting of Sheldon Gellar, Frank Motley, and Craig will work on narrowing the topic and assembling panelists, focusing on those previously proposed by Frank. Craig will try to reserve the Council Chambers in November, and he will let Frank know about today's discussion. Commissioners hope to involve IU President Herbert and others from IU and Ivy Tech.

David Hummons spoke about the importance of supporting the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM) and the MCCSC Diversity Forum, an outgrowth of the CSBM's Town Hall Meeting on Race, School Discipline, and Criminal Justice. Bev Smith and David reviewed the progress of the forum, which will soon issue recommendations to MCCSC Superintendent Maloy. The process of change may be protracted, and it demands continued support from both the MLK and CSBM commissions as well

as other community partners. Bev Smith announced that the next meeting of the Diversity Forum will take place next Wednesday. The group will finalize its recommendations to Superintendent Maloy and its goals for next year.

In addition to working to support the forum and holding its event in November, the commission can obtain added visibility by participating in the Soul Food Picnic on September 17th and the Bloomington Multicultural Festival on September 25th. Beverly Calender-Anderson suggested the commission purchase a mention or an advertisement in the Bloomington Black Connection Directory, a publication of the Bloomington Black Business and Professional Association which will be distributed at the Soul Food Picnic. A mention costs \$10, a 1/2 page ad is \$75, and a full page ad is \$125. Craig will send an e-mail asking members of the commission if they support an expenditure for a mention or an ad, and Beverly or Lee will design it, based on the results of the poll. Debra Vance mentioned that the NAACP is also selling ads for its publication. The Multicultural Festival has a registration fee of \$15 for participation. The commission may be able to collaborate and share a booth with other City of Bloomington commissions.

New Business

Request for Funding – Heritage Project Summer Institute

Chalmer Thompson reported on the 2005 Heritage Project Summer Institute, which held its full day summer camp July 12th through 16th. She thanked the commission for its support last year, and briefly reviewed the history of the project. She requested \$200 from the commission to be used to provide honoraria for teachers. Members present expressed support for the project and the request for funding. Craig will send an e-mail to all commissioners asking if they support the request for funding. Craig suggested the commission develop guidelines to be used in the future when the commission receives requests for funding other than those it requests for King holiday service projects.

Liaison Report

Commission on the Status of Black Males -- David Hummons gave an update on this commission's activities and reiterated his concern that we support its efforts.

NAACP – William Vance reported the NAACP donated \$500 to the Heritage Project, and it hopes to help with workshops in the future. The Freedom Banquet will be held on October 15 at Terry's Banquet and Catering.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 18 at 4:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room #135 at City Hall.

Submitted by Craig Brenner.